

One of my favorite stories in the Old Testament is found in 2 Samuel 23:13-17. This is when David was holed up in a cave near his home town of Bethlehem, which was occupied by the Philistines. David sees the well by the gate and remembers how wonderful the water was there, and the Bible says that he longed for it out loud. Immediately three of his mighty men fought their way through the Philistine lines and brought him some of that water. They made a great sacrifice for their king.

Well, can you imagine their feelings as they watched David pour it out? Before we imagine too much we must understand that David greatly honored them in what he did, because he offered it to the Lord. In David's eyes what was once very ordinary water had gained great value because of the sacrifice that had been given. It was now worth too much for David to even consider drinking it; indeed David called it the life-blood of his men. David thought himself unworthy of it.

I see a great parallel between this event and our sanctification. We also are really very ordinary by ourselves, even sinful and unworthy of God's attention. But He created us, and he loved us, even though as sinners he could not receive us into His presence. God longed for a people to love him and be like him, but we were held captive by Satan. Christ fought through the enemy lines and brought those who would come with him to God. In a sense very similar to the water which to David became holy, we through the precious blood of Christ now have a different value, and we can be accounted acceptable in God's sight. Christ's sacrifice has made us clean and holy, as we read in Hebrews 13:12, 'So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood'. But we must be brought by him, we must come to God through Christ of our own will and love. Regrettably, there are some who refuse to let the greatest sacrifice in the world move them. Don't make that kind of mistake with your life; come now ...